

5 Things to Know About Your Legal Rights After a Diagnosis

1. If you need to take time off work, new Minnesota laws may help you get paid.

- ♥ Earned Sick and Safe Time started on January 1, 2024. You can learn more at: dli.mn.gov/sick-leave.
- ♥ Paid Leave starts on January 1, 2026. Visit mn.gov/deed/paidleave/ for details.

2. If you have medical debt, you have legal rights.

Starting on October 1, 2024, Minnesota has a new law called the Debt Fairness Act. It helps protect people in Minnesota who owe money because of medical debt. Under the new law:

- ♥ Your spouse will not be responsible for your medical debt.
- ♥ Health care providers cannot stop treating you because of medical debt.
- ♥ Unethical medical debt collection is stopped.
- ♥ Patients can dispute medical coding and billing mistakes.
- ♥ Medical debt cannot be reported to credit bureaus.

3. Laws can be different in each state.

In Minnesota, you can find helpful and trusted information from:

- ♥ **Minnesota Attorney General's Office:** They help with scams, debt, consumer issues, and healthcare billing. Visit ag.state.mn.us or call (651) 296-3353 (in Twin Cities), (800) 657-3787 (outside Twin Cities), or (800) 627-3529 (Minnesota Relay).
- ♥ **LawHelpMN:** They have information on benefits, family issues, housing, immigration, work, taxes, and can help you find a lawyer. Visit lawhelpmn.org.
- ♥ **Cancer Legal Care:** Provides legal help for people living in Minnesota and dealing with cancer-related issues at work, with insurance, with disability benefits, and with estate planning. Visit cancerlegalcare.org or call (651) 917-9000.

4. If you can't work, you may be eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

- ♥ Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplementary Security Income (SSI) are for people who can't work long-term because of an illness or injury. They are not for short-term needs. Create an account at www.ssa.gov to see what benefits you may qualify for.

5. You have the right to make your wishes known now.

- ♥ Make your wishes known to your family, friends and healthcare team.
- ♥ Creating legal documents like a healthcare directive, financial power of attorney, and a will, often bring peace of mind to patients and their loved ones.



Cancer Legal Care
ADVOCATES on your CARE TEAM